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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON—MAY 1, 1936

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**THE 1936 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM
FOR THE EAST CENTRAL REGION IN BRIEF**

The agricultural conservation program carries out the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936. The primary purpose of the program is to conserve and improve the Nation's soil fertility and halt wasteful exploitation of soil resources.

The program makes it possible for every farmer to share in conserving our national agricultural resources. Farmers may earn payments for increasing the acreage of crops that conserve the soil and by adopting practices that increase soil fertility. The program, although national in scope has been adapted to local conditions.

The program is to be conducted by farmers through community, county, and State committees with the help of the Extension Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. All farm operators who take part in the program become members of the county associations and may vote in the election of committeemen.

Farmers can obtain information about the program by attending any of the community meetings held in their county or from the county agent's office.

WHAT THE FARMER DOES UNDER THE PROGRAM

1. **Submits work sheet.**—Lists his 1935 crops, the acreage of each, and other information about his farm.
2. **Works with committee to determine soil-depleting base.**
3. **Grows soil-conserving crops on part of soil-depleting base.**
4. **Carries out approved soil-building practices.**
5. **Makes formal application for payment.**
6. **Has farm checked to determine whether conditions of payment have been met.**

Filling out a work sheet.—The work sheet which the farmer gets from his committeemen or from the county office contains spaces for recording the acreages of crops harvested in 1935 and other information about the farm. It should be filled out with the help of a committeeman or other qualified person. Filling out the work sheet does not bind a farmer in any way, but it is necessary before he can apply for payment. After adjustments in data on work sheets have been completed at the county office a copy of the work sheet will be returned to the farmer showing the soil-depleting bases for the farm.

Making farming operations measure up to standards of program.—Using the information obtained on the work sheet, together with other information about the program, the farmer plans his crops and farm practices in line with the program.

Filing formal application for payment.—Later in the year forms will be made available which can be used to apply for payment. Checking of the farm and a certification to show that the farmer has carried out his farming operations in line with the program will form the basis for payment.

SOIL-DEPLETING BASE

Total soil-depleting base.—A total base of soil-depleting crops will be established for each farm for which a work sheet is filed. This base will be used for measuring the amount of change in land use made on the farm in 1936 in connection with the determination of payments. It will be the number of acres of soil-depleting crops harvested on the farm in 1935, subject to possible adjustments in accordance with instructions to correct for changes from normal planting in 1935 due to adjustment programs, and to correct abnormally large or small acreages in 1935 due to weather conditions. The total soil-depleting base will equal the sum of the general soil-depleting base and the soil-depleting bases (if any) for cotton, tobacco, and peanuts.

General soil-depleting base.—The general soil-depleting base is the acreage normally used for the production of all soil-depleting crops other than cotton, tobacco, and peanuts; that is, the difference between the total soil-depleting base and the sum of any cotton, tobacco, and peanut soil-depleting bases for the farm.

Cotton soil-depleting base, tobacco soil-depleting base, and peanut soil-depleting base.—The soil-depleting base for each of these crops will be the base established, or which could have been established, for such crops on the farm under the procedure for adjustment programs for 1936, subject to decrease upon the request of the operator, or to adjustment upward or downward upon the recommendation of the committee if such adjustment is necessary in order to obtain an equitable soil-depleting base for any such crop on the farm as compared with similar neighboring farms.

PAYMENTS

Two classes of payments will be made: Class I, or soil-conserving payments, and class II, or soil-building payments. A farmer may qualify for either or both of these payments.

Class I payments.—The soil-conserving payments will be made at the rates given below to farmers who in 1936 grow soil-conserving crops on part of their soil-depleting base.

For each acre of the general soil-depleting base (for crops other than cotton, tobacco, or peanuts) used for the growing of soil-conserving crops in 1936, an average for the United States of \$10 per acre will be paid. This rate will vary above or below \$10, by States, counties, and individual farms, depending upon the productivity of cropland.

For each acre of the cotton soil-depleting base used in 1936 for the growing of soil-conserving crops, the rate of payment will be 5 cents a pound times the normal yield per acre of cotton established for the farm.

For each acre of tobacco soil-depleting base used in 1936 for the growing of soil-conserving crops, the rates of payment for the different kinds of tobacco will be as follows:

(1) Flue-cured, Burley, and Maryland tobacco, 5 cents a pound times the normal yield per acre of tobacco established for the farm.

(2) Fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound times the normal yield per acre of tobacco established for the farm.

For each acre of the peanut soil-depleting base used in 1936 for the growing of soil-conserving crops, the rate of payment will be $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents a pound times the normal yield per acre of peanuts established for the farm.

Maximum soil-conserving payments.—The maximum number of acres for which soil-conserving payments for any farm will be made are as follows:

(1) 15 percent of the general soil-depleting base.

(2) 30 percent of the tobacco soil-depleting base.

(3) 35 percent of the cotton soil-depleting base for a farm, but not more than 25 percent of the total cotton soil-depleting base acreage which could be established for all farms in a county (or group of counties).

(4) 20 percent of the peanut soil-depleting base.

Food and feed crops.—No payment will be made for shifting land to soil-conserving crops from the production of food and feed crops needed for home consumption on the farm, even though such crops make up part or all of the general soil-depleting base for the farm.

Class II payments.—The soil-building payments will be made for carrying out soil-building practices on the farm in 1936. Rates of payment vary for different practices, depending upon relative costs and relative soil-building values.

Soil-building practices.—For each State in the region the State committee has recommended and the Secretary of Agriculture has approved, certain farming practices which are considered to be soil-building. These include seeding specified legume crops in 1936, plowing or disking-under specified green manure crops in 1936, planting forest trees on cropland or noncrop pasture land in 1936, improving certain land by the use of lime or superphosphate (or in some cases potash), and in certain areas controlling erosion on cropland by the use of terracing or subsoiling. Details regarding the soil-building practices may be obtained by farmers from their county extension agents.

Maximum soil-building payment.—Although the payments for some soil-building practices may be several dollars an acre, there is a top limit on the total class II or soil-building payment for any farm. That top limit, or soil-building allowance, is \$1 for each acre of cropland on the farm in soil-conserving crops in 1936. For example, if a farm has 60 acres of cropland in soil-conserving crops in 1936, the maximum soil-building allowance or largest total soil-building payment it can receive is \$60. However, for any farm having less than 10 acres of soil-conserving crops, the minimum soil-building allowance is \$10.

DEDUCTIONS FROM PAYMENTS FOR NOT HAVING MINIMUM ACREAGE OF SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS OR INCREASING SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS

Soil-conserving acreage.—To receive the full amount of any soil-conserving payment, the farmer must have in 1936 an acreage of soil-conserving crops at least equal to the sum of 15 percent of the

general soil-depleting base and 20 percent of the soil-depleting base (if any) for cotton, for tobacco, and for peanuts. For each acre which the farmer is short of this requirement a deduction will be made from his payment at the rate of one and one-half times the payment which would be made with respect to each acre of the general soil-depleting base used in 1936 for soil-conserving crops.

Increase of soil-depleting acreage.—For each acre of general soil-depleting crops in excess of the general soil-depleting base a deduction will be made equal to the payment which would be made for each acre of the general soil-depleting base used in 1936 for soil-conserving crops. However, no deduction will be made for an increase of food and feed crops grown in connection with a legume crop if such crops are not in excess of home-consumption needs for the farm.

For each acre of cotton, tobacco, or peanuts, in excess of the soil-depleting base for each such crop, a deduction will be made equal to the amount which would be paid for each acre of the soil-depleting base of such crop used in 1936 for soil-conserving crops.

NUMBER AND DIVISION OF PAYMENTS

One payment, including both soil-conserving and soil-building payments, will be made as promptly as possible after the conditions of payment in 1936 have been met on the farm. A separate check will be written for each person on the farm who is entitled to receive a part of the payment.

Class I or soil-conserving payments with respect to any farm will be divided among the producers (owner, share tenants, and sharecroppers) on the farm as follows:

- (1) 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent to the producer who furnished the land.
- (2) 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent to the producer who furnished the work stock and equipment.
- (3) 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent to be divided among the producers on the farm in 1936 in accordance with their shares in the soil-depleting crops with respect to which the payment is made.

Class II or soil-building payments will go to the producer on the farm in 1936 who incurred the expense of the soil-building practices with respect to which the payment is made. Where two or more persons incurred this expense, the payment will be divided equally between them.

HOW LAND USE IS CLASSIFIED

Crops are classified in two groups: (1) soil-depleting crops and (2) soil-conserving crops. A few land uses are classified as "neutral."

In general, crop land devoted to intertilled crops and small grain crops, such as corn, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, truck crops, wheat, etc., is regarded as used for the production of soil-depleting crops for the year in which such crops are harvested, while crop land devoted to legumes and grasses is regarded as used for the production of soil-conserving crops. Crop land includes all farm land which is tillable and from which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1936. It also includes all farm land in orchards and vineyards which had not reached bearing age on January 1, 1936.